

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 29, 1887, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Wolfville. Sunday, May 29, 1887. My darling May:

I shall explode with repressed excitement if I don't find a vent somewhere. Abiel Lovejoy gave me a turn once — and now his wife comes out of her grave and her ghost cuts down at one blow the ancestral tree I had built upon her remains. Misled by Wyman in his Estates and genealoging of Charlestown — I credited her with ancestors to whom she was not related — and took away from her — her twenty-four brothers and sisters leaving her “an only child”. That woman — who was married 130 years ago — actually has nephews and nieces living now some of them only a little past middle age! Extraordinary — and yet it is now — a demonstrated fact.

For a long time Mrs. Pratt has suspected the truth — and circumstantial evidence has been accumulating. Today the culmination came.

One of the points of circumstantial evidence lay in the fact that Nathaniel Brown (supposed to be the father of Mary (Brown) wife of Abiel Lovejoy) — married for his second wife Mary “Lovejoy” and his youngest child was called Abiel.

Upon looking over deeds in Kentville yesterday — I noticed that this Abiel Brown signed his name Abiel L. Brown — and today I interviewed his daughter Mrs. McDougall — an aged widow in Lower Horton — upon the subject. Behold the conversation.

A. G. B. — “What does the “L” stand for in your father's name?”

Mrs. Mc.D. — “Pa's full name was Abiel Lovejoy Brown.”

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A. G. B. — “Why was he called “Lovejoy” Brown?”

Mrs. Mc.D. — “Oh! Pa had an older sister — a half-sister I 2 mean — who married a man named Abiel Lovejoy and Pa was called after him.”

Do you realize the wonder of this declaration, I do — when I know from records — that “Pa's older sister” was married 130 years ago!

Your loving husband, Alec.